

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2943

As Reported by House Committee On:
Health Care

Title: An act relating to health care provider contracting.

Brief Description: Modifying health care provider contract requirements.

Sponsors: Representatives Cody, Curtis, Morrell, Campbell, Green, Clibborn, Kessler, Serben, Rodne, Roach, Moeller, Buri, Pearson, McCune, Appleton, Kenney, Hasegawa and Dunn.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care: 1/31/06, 2/2/06 [DPS].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Prohibits discrimination against various classes of health care providers through the use of network selection and credentialing standards.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 10 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Campbell, Vice Chair; Morrell, Vice Chair; Curtis, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Appleton, Clibborn, Green, Lantz, Moeller and Schual-Berke.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 4 members: Representatives Hinkle, Ranking Minority Member; Alexander, Bailey and Condotta.

Staff: Dave Knutson (786-7146).

Background:

Health carriers may attempt to exclude certain classes of health care providers by adopting health care network selection and credentialing standards that restrict selection credentialing of clinics of only a certain class of provider.

Summary of Substitute Bill:

Organizations that contract for the establishment of provider networks are prohibited from discriminating against classes of health care practitioners through the adoption of health care

network selection and credentialing standards that permit the selection and credentialing of only one or certain classes of practitioners. Health carriers cannot require health care providers to participate in all plans, programs, and health care arrangements of the carrier.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:

Health carriers cannot require health care providers to participate in all plans, programs, and health care arrangements of the carrier.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date of Substitute Bill: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: All types of health care providers should have equal access to health care coverage plans.

Testimony Against: Health carriers try to contain health care cost increases through building efficient cost-effective networks of health care providers. The legislators should not take away a carrier's ability to do that.

Persons Testifying: (In support) Representative Curtis, prime sponsor; Lori Bielinski and Karen Thola, Washington State Chiropractic Association; and Brad Tower, Optometric Physicians of Washington.

(Opposed) Ken Bertrand, Group Health Cooperative; Rick Wickman, Premera; Nancee Wildermuth, Regence Blue Shield, PacifiCare and Aetna; Sydney Zvara, Association of Washington Healthcare Plans, Molina and Community Health Plan of Washington; and Mel Sorensen, Washington Association of Health Underwriters and America's Health Insurance Plans.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.